

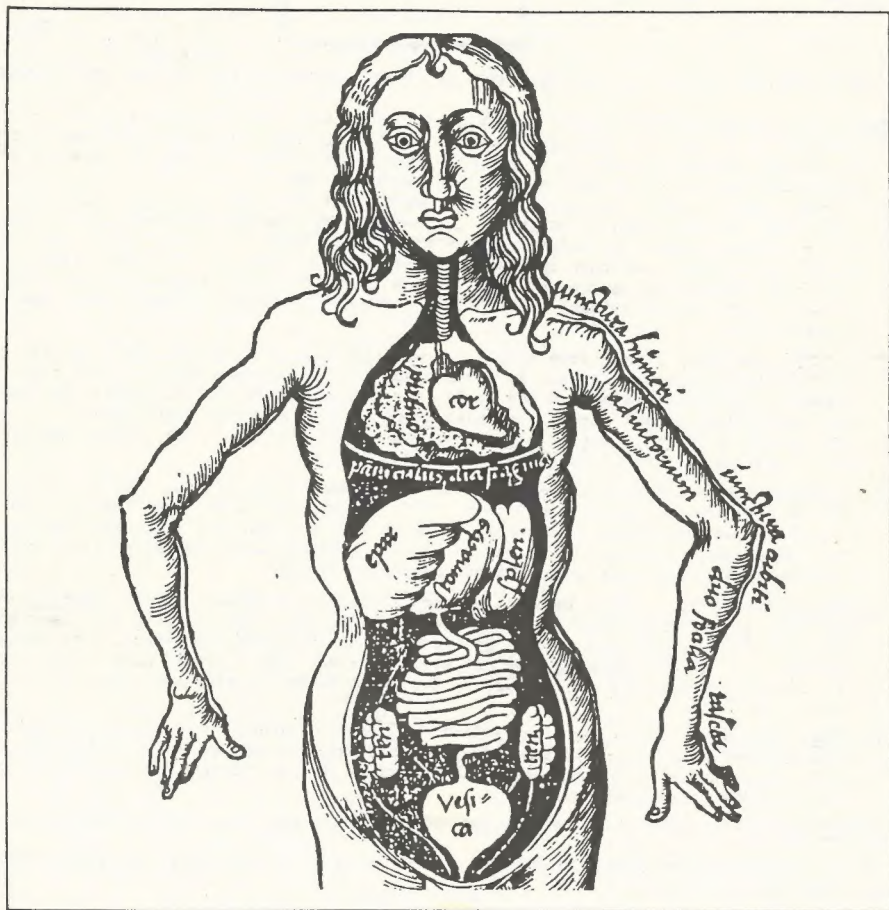
POLEMIC

20p

(benefit
for Lon-
don Gre-
enpeace)

No.2

SPRING '89



INSIDE:

**A.I.D.S.
UNILEVER**

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
WHAT IS "NATURAL"?**

HUMANS & ANIMALS

INTERVIEWS:

PERJURY
ADVANCE WARNING

PLUS:

LETTERS, ARTWORK...

POLEMIC No2 SPRING '89

NEW EDITORIAL
ADDRESS:

"POLEMIC"
c/o 70 High Street
Leicester.

(other people use
this address as
well, so please
write "Polemic" on the
envelope)

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND ALL LETTERS, ARTWORK, POEMS, ARTICLES, ETC. TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

LAST ISSUE: Polemic No.1 is still available for 30p + SAE from the above address. It features interviews with Anorexia, Nox Mortis and Condemned Minority; articles on direct action, and pornography; plus graphics/artwork and poems. It also includes an A3-size animal rights poster and an anti-bloodsports sticker.

Issue 1 was originally intended to be a benefit for the ALF-Supporters Group, but soon after the completion of the zine, I found out from various sources that the ALF-SG PO Box is being tapped by police (see Des's letter on page 5 for more info.); so almost all of the proceeds have been redirected to London Greenpeace, with smaller sums being donated to the Warzone land co-op, and various direct action-supporting animal rights groups. At the time of writing (14/1/89) the amount raised from sales of issue one totals £75.90.

THIS ISSUE: The money raised from this issue will be divided up as follows: 50% will go towards printing costs; 20% will go towards the cost of posting copies of the zine to independent distributors around the world; the remaining 30% will be donated to direct action-supporting animal rights/anarchist groups (chiefly London Greenpeace).

The print run for this issue is 500. If you are able to sell some, please get in touch - postage is free if you order 10 or more copies.

NEXT ISSUE: Polemic No.3 should be out around late summer '89. It will include more opinions and articles on "pornography", and hopefully articles on Northern Ireland, apartheid, anarchism, and loads more stuff. There'll also be a cartoon featuring "Phuk Rogers - Space Anarchist"!(not to be missed!!) All contributions are gratefully received - especially articles from animal rights/anarchist groups.

COPYRIGHT: Everything in this issue is subject to copyright because it is a benefit and I don't want anyone using stuff for their own personal gain. People are free to use anything in this issue as long as they give a donation to London Greenpeace. Fair enough? (Obviously the above statement does not apply to stuff that I myself have ripped off - i.e. the Cath Jackson cartoon on page 7, the front cover illustration, and a few other bits.)

MY OTHER ZINE: As well as compiling "Polemic", I am also co-editor of a zine called "CHEMICAL WARFARE" which concentrates mainly on hardcore/punk music, but also includes articles, poems, letters, artwork, etc. Chem.Warfare No.3 is currently available for 50p + SAE from the Polemic address.

THANKS TO: All the people who help me put this zine together, and who sell it at gigs etc.

IF THIS ZINE INTERESTS/INTRIGUES/OFFENDS YOU IN ANY WAY, OR JUST MAKES YOU THINK, THEN IT HAS ACHIEVED SOMETHING...

— LOVE, MICK.



LETTERS

Please send all letters to the editorial address on page 2.

Hey Mick,

Good to see the first Polemic is out, and cheers for sending a copy. A few thoughts: it's a damn good first issue, as in layout, content etc. I really admire the graphics too; fuckin' excellent I'd say. I wish the Condemned Minority interview had been a bit longer, seeing as they're a relatively "new" band, and I ain't heard or read about 'em previously. Another point, concerning the Pornography article, and one statement you made - "I abhor all violence, especially against women or children (not for any sexist reason, but simply because they are usually less able to defend themselves than men)..." Well, I agree with the first part, but to say women are less able to defend themselves is what I'd call a sexist remark. I've found that the majority of women can just as easily defend themselves, if not better than men. Recalling one incident, when both me and Ruth were receiving total 100% harassment from 6 or 7 macho arseholes for no apparent reason (we were sat on a bench talking to each other), and she dealt with them much better than I probably would. But that's only one situation, and my opinion, but I still found what you said pretty derogatory.

Love, Anthony, Box 167, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, W.Yorks., LS1 6DT.

Anthony:-

Yes; to say women are less able to defend themselves is what I'd call a sexist remark as well because that's obviously a generalisation. But that's not what I said. I knew what I was saying would be fairly controversial, so I consciously included the word "usually"; and in my own experience that has been the case. I'm no expert in biology, but from what I understand of human anatomy, on average men tend to be physically stronger than women. And, regrettably, in the violent world in which we live, physical strength is often the test of how well someone is able to defend her/himself. Obviously, there are going to be thousands of exceptions - that's why I try to steer away from over-generalised statements; and that's why I said "usually". One point that I'd make against the argument I've just used would be that ability to defend one's self does not depend solely on physical strength. Technique, and also verbal ability, play an important part - i.e. some people may not be particularly strong in a physical sense, but they may be experienced in, say, one of the martial arts; and some people are adept at talking (or shouting!) themselves out of potentially violent situations (like, I

presume, Ruth). However, I still stick by my original statement that women and children are usually less able to defend themselves than men, and it is for that reason that I abhor violence against women and children even more than violence against men. Although, in future, when making any statement which could be construed as a generalisation, I will use the words "in my experience" (or something similar).

- Mick.

Dear Mick,

I thought "Polemic" No.1 was good; it's nice to see someone trying something different within a fanzine format. As for your Pornography article, I can understand what you're getting at but I don't agree with you. For instance, you say is the availability of pornography really that wide? Well I would consider the fact that it's sold in almost every newsagent in the country to mean that it's pretty easy to get hold of. Whilst I agree that sex shouldn't be a taboo subject, the blatant and sometimes violent images portrayed in magazines and films totally ignore love and affection. I also believe that things like Page 3 and for instance something like the Benny Hill Show on television do encourage, whether consciously or sub-consciously, the idea that women are objects to be used and abused by men. And why should a girl/woman be considered better or more attractive because a part of her body is bigger than someone else's? Yeah, people should be intelligent enough to see things clearly and make up their own minds, but they're not. The people who make money out of the sex industry are businessmen; the same people who control the multinationals, and they make their money by exploiting, degrading and playing on people's weaknesses. When you're young, you don't consider a picture of somebody naked to be anything unusual; it's only because you're told that it's bad (by your parents) or good (by your friends at school) that you start to think about it.

Well, you wanted to hear from people, so let me know what you think about what I've written.

Andy ("So What" fanzine), Middlesex.

Andy:-

O.k., so "soft porn" mags such as "Mayfair", "Men Only" etc. are on the top shelf of virtually every newsagent in the country ... But those shit-rags aren't the be-all and end-all of "pornography". "Mayfair" is just for blokes to have a quick wank over in the bathroom - it's not the kind of

revolutionary explicit stuff I wanna see made more available.

Personally, I think women (and men!!) should be free to "flaunt" their bodies on the Benny Hill Show/Page 3 if that's what they wanna do—who are you or me to tell them not to? It cannot be proven that pornography leads to violence against women - that's just personal opinion - and personal opinion shouldn't be imposed by law (i.e. through censorship).

I agree with you that we learn to regard nakedness (and even sex) as a "bad" thing—that's why I'd like to see more nudity in the world around me, and that includes media such as TV, newspapers and magazines...

I fully realise that the bulk of pornography only exists to make money for big businessmen - but that doesn't make "pornography" itself "wrong".

Oh, and by the way Andy, your argument that people aren't intelligent enough to make up their own minds is the precise excuse that the State uses to censor things it doesn't agree with.

- Mick.

Hi there Mick,

Well, what can I say? You wanted some female feedback on your pornography article... Well here goes.

I'm gonna have to be frank about this - I find most "pornography" incredibly boring. I mean what's the big deal if a woman wants to show everyone she has a chest? We all have one. That's not really the problem though - the fact that the top part of the female anatomy is shown in this way makes it practically impossible for any woman to go out into the street topless on those sunny summer (?) days like a man can without getting any hassle. (And the hassle wouldn't just come from men but from other women who were afraid to do the same.)

And where should censorship begin? I have a couple of friends, one male one female, who pose nude for drawing classes. Indeed, I myself have drawn nudes of both sexes and enjoyed the experience. When will people realise that the human body is actually quite a beautiful thing and should be appreciated? Too many people are afraid of their bodies!!!

Then we come to sex. The big thing wrong with "pornography" is that sex is just seen as cunts and pricks; desperate women practically begging for a fuck. And any lesbianism just comes down to basically the same thing - cunts and dildos. And everyone is having spontaneous orgasms within the first

sentence - (yep some of 'em have story lines too!)—We all know that sex is a pleasurable experience - or it should be - but this is just ridiculous. The big thing that ALL "pornography" misses out on is the mutual RESPECT for anyone's emotional feelings. You have to admit that it's a much nicer feeling to be wanted rather than used, and believe me women are just as capable of using people as men are.

Child pornography and sadism are a big NO!NO! I have enough problems without ever having been through the hell of being molested as a child. Child Pornography, Rape and Sadism are SICK!!!

Like you, I don't find "pornographic" pictures offensive. I remember once reading a feminist publication that had a double page spread of cunts - can this be classed as pornography, degrading to women? Should we censor books on childbirth because they contain pictures of cunts? - No cunt no baby! I've got a vagina/cunt (some people may find the word cunt offensive) and I'm proud of that fact, just as all you men out there have penises and are proud of the fact. You would be pretty miffed if someone came along and chopped it off all in the name of censorship.

Women shouldn't be seen as sex machines, but neither should men. And men are. I was always given the impression (from friends as ignorant as myself) that boys/men were "ready to fuck you anytime so you'd better watch out" - that frightened me but now I know better.

No-one is forced to read "pornography". If a woman wants to show her cunt to the world then it's up to her. She's getting paid and obviously doesn't mind. What I find offensive is the fact that people are only too ready to take thousands of pounds to pose in various positions while a child is dying of starvation and disease because it's parents cannot afford to do anything, are powerless against war-hungry governments, and can't feed the child.—The state of the world makes me want to puke!!! Not the tits on page 3 (although the fact that men will pay for this regardless...).

If men were as able to love as they are able to drool then maybe we could get somewhere. Sorry, that's not strictly true, but mention love to some men and they will rip the piss out of you. What are they so afraid of?

I'm sorry if this has gotten a bit long.

On the whole I quite enjoyed your zine and am looking forward to future issues.

When sending letters, please make it clear whether or not you'd like your address to be printed.

Love, Kirsteen, Dumfries, Scotland.
P.S. Too many women aren't prepared to stand up and speak for themselves and it totally pisses me off!

Kirsteen;-

Great! I couldn't agree with you more about people being afraid of their (and other people's) bodies.

I also agree that pornography misses out on the "mutual respect" side of relationships. But what pornography does is very important; it brings the issue of sex out into the open - it promotes sex - and sex is so important that I think it should be promoted. In my opinion, all forms of censorship have a negative effect.

Yeah, I'd be pretty fucking "miffed" if someone chopped my dick off; but I wouldn't go so far as to say that I'm proud of my genitals - just happy that I've got some.

Thanks a lot for your opinions Kirsteen-- I hope your letter will inspire more girls/women to speak out about their views on pornography and sex.

- Mick.

Dear Mick,

I've just read issue 1 of "Polemic" zine and I thought it was pretty good.

I have it on pretty reliable advice that the ALF Supporter's Group is being tapped by the police: anyone who tries to get the £20,000 out of the ALF-SG bank account is arrested (the pigs know the account no.), and anyone who writes to the group has their name and address put on a file. Sounds far out, eh? What's the world coming to? So I would think twice about sending your proceeds to the ALF-SG - at least check it out first, and be wary of replies from box nos. by people you don't know - if the pigs are opening the letters they can just as easily forge replies....

What else?--Oh, here at the collective there's a land co-op that has been set up by 10 people who plan to buy their own land and live on it, farming it organically. They hope to eventually be as self sufficient as is possible, and they might be able to use "alternative" technology (wind turbines, etc.) and hopefully have an animal sanctuary. But of course, to buy the land (to be somewhere in Ireland) they will need money. Yes the big £-sign rules the day again. So far fund-raising and stuff has raised around £9,000+, but the land will cost around £30,000-£40,000 we think, so much more is needed. What we'd like is maybe benefits organised and especially articles in fanzines to get the word around about what's happening. For more info. write to me or Fra c/o the Warzone box address.

On your Pornography article in Polemic, there's little to be said save that I both agree and don't agree with you. I think the constant porno images society feeds us conditions us to some extent, and is wrong because of that, and that it degrades other living human beings (who, incidentally, do it themselves largely because they have been conditioned by other parts of society that it's all right).

Other points made by you were that only prudes think there is actually anything wrong with the human body. I agree wholeheartedly; I would be very glad if everyone was free enough to be able to show their own bodies and not some false mask we call clothes (of course, clothes should be worn in the winter, obviously). Anyway, the way you phrased it, you implied that as there's nothing wrong with the human body, there's nothing wrong with page 3 girls and their ilk (I don't know if you meant that, it's just the impression I got) ((Yes, I did mean that - more or less.-Mick.)) --But I think there is a great difference between artistic representations of the nude figure and the lewd "come and get me" poses and exploitation of page 3 girls.

I certainly don't believe in censorship of any kind, so another approach to it may be needed to show that some people don't agree with pornography.

I think the best way is to "argue"/debate/talk to people you know who do support (and supposedly enjoy) soft (or hard) porn. You never know, some of them may change. Alternatively, more direct action may be needed, e.g. if you know someone who likes his women 2-dimensional and pouting with as little clothes as possible, slip a word or an anonymous note to his girlfriend (if he has one), and she might find a way to wise him up (gratuitous bodily harm to his groin on their next "date" may be in order).

Another way for people who have a more "ALF" frame of mind is to raid newsagents and rip out all offending pictures and page 3s, burn copies of Playboy, etc., spray anti-porn slogans. Imagination can be used to great effect here (and so can a sense of humour...).

Yrs, Love, Des, c/o Warzone, PO Box 148, Belfast, BTL, N.Ireland.

Des;-

Thanks for the information about the ALF-SG. I already had strong suspicions, so as mentioned in this issue's editorial, the cash raised from Polemic 1 is being diverted to London Greenpeace and other worthwhile causes.

Great to hear about the land co-op project--practical anarchy in action! If every-

one reading this donates £5 (or as much as you can afford) towards buying the land, I'm sure it'd be a big help! Two other magazines worth writing to for publicity are: Freedom (Freedom Press, (in Angel Alley), 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX.) and MaximumRocknRoll (PO Box 288, Berkeley CA 94701, USA.) Also: Green Anarchist, Turning Point, etc.

On the pornography thing:- I don't agree with your view that we are conditioned to accept pornography by the media etc.. We are constantly told by the government, and authority in general, that pornography is "wrong", and they try to censor the media (TV mostly) by using the "sex and violence" slogan.

People with your kind of view on pornography, Des, seem to lump all porn together—What about porn aimed at gay men? Is that degrading to anyone? Fuck, No! And even pornography aimed at women! (I wish there was more of it about!) I'm gonna be even more extreme and suggest that if you find pornography degrading to women, that's your problem, not the person who publishes the magazine/book/film, or the woman/people in the photo!

As for page 3 girls being "exploited":- Being paid thousands of pounds to pose in front of a camera wearing a skimpy pair of bikini bottoms and a big artificial smile isn't my definition of exploitation!-I'd do it any day!!

I would fully support any action which effectively deprives big businessmen of money and trade, therefore I agree with your sabotage suggestions (raids on newsagents). But why limit it to soft porn mags and page 3? We must attack capitalism wherever it rears its ugly greedy head!

One last point: If I discovered my lover had some pornography, I'd ask her/him if I could borrow it!!(not kick them in the groin!!)

- Mick.

Hello Mick and Polemic zine,

Cheers for an interesting and well put together zine (Polemic No.1). The abundance of essays made it a varied read, and made the zine deviate from the clichéd approach you get to expect these days. Anyway - A point I want to raise and I feel it's very important: Although I agree with your article on pornography to an extent, I feel you have looked over (or chosen to ignore?) some aspects of pornography/violence (films, etc.) induced rape and sexual assault. Some statistics I've got here from March 1986 seem to show quite the opposite of what you believe, i.e. pornography and pornographic scenes in films not increasing the possibility for someone to commit rape.

Since 1955 when violence (and sex a few years later) emerged as a vital ingredient of adult televised "entertainment", reported violence against the person in England and Wales have risen from 7,884 to 114,187 a year, and REPORTED rapes from 340 to 1,433. This by far outstrips the increase in adult population over the same period of time. It is evident from these statistics that violence and rape have increased due to an outside influence. I am not saying that everyone who reads porn mags or watches porn/violent films will go out and rape someone, but that some people are influenced by what they see to either go out and repeat it, or more likely that their minds are tuned to feel more aggressive towards other people - sexually or not - over a period of time until they believe it is more the norm to go out and behave in that manner. The low punishments almost glorified in newspapers, especially cheap scandal papers such as the Mirror, the Star, or the Sun for rape and other sexually-related crimes can act almost as an incentive towards their desired crime.

However, like you, I don't believe that banning pornography will make it any better, I also believe it will make it worse. We don't want to return to a Victorian society where misunderstandings about sexual behaviour and unwanted pregnancies were common. We are, I feel, slowly advancing towards a more open society where people can feel at ease to talk about sex in public. Even some schools teach about homosexuality now (and about time too!) ((yeah, it's a shame the government have put an abrupt stop to that now with the threat of Clause 28 hanging over schools though, isn't it Dave?:-Mick.)) But goggling cross-eyed at a sprawling naked woman is not going to make men any more aware of females and their sexuality. Some may begin to see all women as objects of sexual gratification. Why do some men wolf-whistle at attractive women when they walk past? Are they more interested in a woman's personality or body? Will they go out with a girl for her looks and charm or because his mates tell him that she's a "good shag"? The sooner men realise women have personality, feelings, and are people the better.

Anyway Mick, good luck with everything, Take care, Dave, Poole, Dorset.

Dave:-

I'm very wary of statistics, especially when their source isn't given, so don't expect me to be shocked or surprised by those figures you quoted. I don't dispute those particular statistics - they're probably very accurate - but used in isolation as "evidence" they are worse than useless. Firstly, they don't tell us the rise (or

fall) in violent/sex-related crime between, say, 1900-1954 (i.e. before the introduction of "sex and violence" on TV); Secondly, they fail to take into account the overall increase in all types of "crime" over the same period (1955-86); And thirdly, they immediately bias the reader by inferring that television is the only possible cause for this dramatic rise. I could go on, but I won't. Anyway, to a certain extent, I think you answered your own point when you emphasised the fact that it's the number of REPORTED rapes which has increased. That is not necessarily a good reason for assuming that the actual number of rapes committed each year has increased by a similar amount (it may be that rape, or attempted rape, is more likely to be reported to the police today than it would have been in 1955 for various reasons, such as "social stigma" etc.). However, I'd like to stress that I in no way wish to appear flippant about statistics - at times, they can be very useful. And I particularly don't want to appear flippant when talking about the infinitely serious and important subject of rape—I just hope that you'll respect my above evaluations.

Dave, you say that "some people are influenced by what they see (on TV/in magazines etc.) to...go out and repeat it..."—Yeah, maybe, but I can't really see that as an argument against pornography. The widely accepted definition of "pornography" is: "writings or pictures...intended to stimulate erotic feelings by description or portrayal of sexual activity."—(Oxford Dictionary)—The act of rape is not "erotic"!!

If I saw a woman being raped in a film (even if it was purely fictional), I imagine I would be filled with disgust that humans are capable of carrying out such an act of sheer oppression and exploitation upon another person. It would probably also make me even more committed to doing something positive about decreasing the occurrence of rape. The people you talk about (the ones being "influenced" by films/TV) are pretty much fucked-up already; I dread to think what goes on in their minds. You can't censor so-called explicit images just cos some fuck-heads go around abusing women.

My main objection to the pornography industry (and this is a general point,

not particularly to do with Dave's letter) is (as I mentioned in answer to Andy's letter) the fact that it's controlled chiefly by capitalist, money-grabbing businessmen and big-time criminals (the same thing-?). But that's why I wanna see sex and sexuality brought out into the open where more people can see it. I'm not offended by "explicit" images - I wanna see more of them. But not just women - I wanna see penises too: I don't mind seeing pictures of sprawling naked women as long as I can see sprawling naked men as well—Do you see what I'm getting at?? I also wanna see more gay/bisexual pornography. I'm bored with the argument that pornography leads to rape. Pornography must, in some way, influence us - but so does every other thing we ever experience in the whole of our lives!

People think that by speaking in defence of "pornography" (I prefer to call it "erotica") I'm supporting the capitalist porno-industry, but I'm not!—Pornography/erotica is more than a product - it's an abstract concept!!

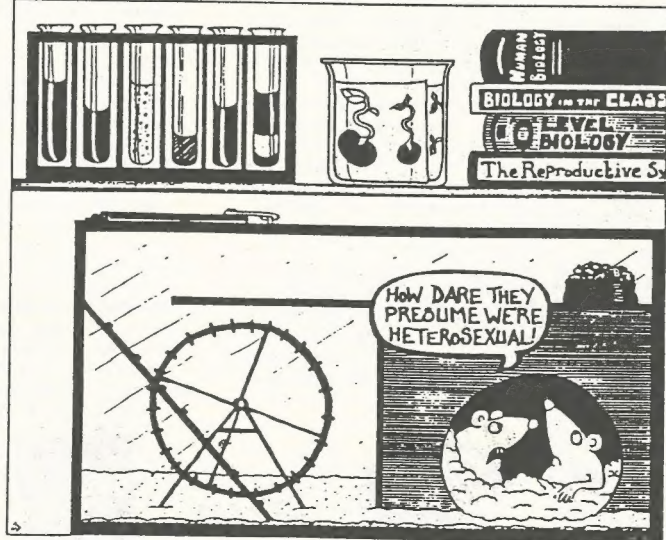
Anyway, Dave, - I agree with some of what you were saying (not wanting to return to a "Victorian society", and censorship making things worse, etc.) so I'll stop polemicizing!(for now!)

- Mick.

Hello Mick,

I thought it was about time I got back in touch with you...

...In ways I thought ((CONT'D ON PAGE 10))





Perjury are a 4-piece band from the London area. Their music consists of grinding metal-influenced riffs mixed with the aggressive vocal style of punk. The music's o.k., but what really attracted me to this band was their caring attitude towards animals and the environment which is strongly expressed through their lyrics. I therefore thought it would be interesting to find out their opinions on various issues, and in January '88 I sent them some questions. At that time, the band were having a few hassles - the vocalist (Kevin) left, to be replaced by Chris - and they were busy working on new songs and generally getting their shit together. So it wasn't until mid-July that I recieved the interview, and by that time it was too late for inclusion in Polemic No.1.

Anyway - even after a year, I feel the views expressed in the interview are still very valid, so here it is...

Questions: Mick (M); Answers: Hillbill (H) and Chris (C).

M:-WHAT'S THE RESPONSE TO THE DEMO-TAPE ("HANG THE JUDGE & THE JURY") BEEN LIKE? ARE YOU PLANNING TO RELEASE ANOTHER TAPE IN THE NEAR FUTURE? IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF A VINYL RELEASE SOON?

H:-The response to the demo has been pretty good on the whole, although we haven't had that much feedback from it.

C:-We are planning to record a new demo this summer ('88) which will be better recorded and more diverse in its musical style.

H:-No vinyl releases planned yet.

M:-ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS WITHIN THE PUNK SCENE AT THE MOMENT SEEMS TO BE WHETHER IT'S POSSIBLE FOR BANDS TO PLAY METAL-INFLUENCED MUSIC BUT STILL REMAIN "PUNK". YOUR MUSIC IS OBVIOUSLY METAL-INFLUENCED BUT YOUR LYRICS FOCUS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES...

C:-Our music is "metal" influenced but we haven't let that change our politics. A lot of bands (mentioning no names because slagging each other off is stupid) have started to play metal but have let themselves become blinkered by the music they are playing and have let the politics slide, using the excuse that they are trying to get across to a wider audience. It's a good thing to play music that is enjoyed by a large group of people, and it is also an excellent platform to put across your views, hopes, fears and dreams, and if a lot of people agree with what you're saying then all well and good. But it's important not to ram it down their throats - it's always best to let people decide for themselves.

M:-IN RESPECT TO THE PREVIOUS POINT (METAL vs. PUNK), WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE QUESTION OF UNITY - DO YOU THINK MUSIC IS A UNIFYING FORCE OR A DESTRUCTIVE ONE (i.e. CREATING DIVISIONS)? (TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LABELS SUCH AS "METAL", "HARDCORE" & "CROSSOVER"...)

H:-Sad though it is, I think that music creates more divisions than it builds bridges. Labels help to build walls between people - they create nice little "boxes" that everybody neatly fits into. Within these boxes there is, no doubt, unity, but each box seems, to me, too insular and isolated.

C:-Music can be a unifying force. For example, the music that GRASS made brought a lot of people together and inspired a lot of actions like STOP THE CITY. But music can be destructive when people think that it's a cure for the world's problems, or a cure for identity crisis.

M:-DO YOU THINK A "PUNK MOVEMENT" ACTUALLY EXISTS, OR ARE WE JUST FOOLING OURSELVES THAT WE CAN BRING ABOUT A REAL CHANGE IN PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES? SURELY A "MOVEMENT" CAN ONLY EXIST WHEN PEOPLE SHARE SIMILAR POLITICAL VIEWS - NOT JUST BECAUSE THEY LISTEN TO THE SAME KIND OF MUSIC...!

C:-In my opinion the punk movement died in terrible pain about six years ago, but its spirit is still very much alive. I don't think PUNK itself can change things, but the anger it inspires can. It's not really up to us to change other people's attitudes, it's up to the people themselves to change from within, but any ideas they get from us that helps them along the way is good.

H:-I don't think there has been a "punk" movement for a while now - the music →



appears to have died a death, and the general "scene" where we organise our own gigs, do our own publicity etc. has become very quiet. Lyrics can make people think and this can lead to changes in attitude. All we can hope for is that we sow that seed of thought. At the end of the day, the message - the lyrics - are the most important thing; the music is just the vehicle for this.

M1: THE WORLD'S RAINFORESTS ARE BEING DESTROYED AT A HORRIFYING RATE, & IT SEEMS AS IF THERE'S VERY LITTLE WE CAN DO TO STOP IT. THE MURDEROUS MULTINATIONALS ARE RAPIDLY TIGHTENING THEIR STRANGLEHOLD ON OUR PLANET, & IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME (ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE MANY YEARS) BEFORE ALL LIFE IS EXTINGUISHED. CAN YOU FORESEE A MORE HOPEFUL FUTURE BEYOND THIS GRIM REALITY? AND, IN YOUR OPINION, IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO STOP THE GENOCIDE CAUSED BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS?..

C1: The multinationals are getting more and more powerful by the day, and the land is becoming desert even as I write. I must admit, it is very depressing, and it may seem a hopeless task to change it, but there is something we can all do to stop the genocide. If we have absolute faith in our lives and believe that what we're doing is right we can make a change. If we all believe that, we're halfway there already; our belief in change will create change.

M1: To be honest I think we're fooling ourselves if we think we can take on the MNC's. They are already far too big to tear down, far too powerful to dismiss. The future is grim but it's something I don't dwell on otherwise I'd be a very unhappy happy.

M1: THE HUMAN RACE IS THE ONLY FORM OF LIFE ON EARTH WHICH TOTALLY FUCKS UP THE BALANCE OF NATURE & THREATENS THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE PLANET. THEREFORE, DO YOU THINK IT WOULD ULTIMATELY BE A GOOD THING FOR THE EARTH IF A DISEASE (SUCH AS A.I.D.S.) WAS TO WIPE OUT THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE?!! (YEAH, I KNOW IT'S HYPOTHETICAL!)

H1: No. Man has done some shit things in his time (and continues to do so) but I don't

...MNC's control every aspect of this consumer society, from the raped fields to the sterile kitchen table - the stench of capitalism on a massive scale, neatly packaged for you, the willing consumer... tea...coffee...peanuts...bananas...tobacco...sugar...cocoa beans (chocolate)... And...meat!

These are cash crops we can boycott without too much hardship. And if we really care, this is no sacrifice!

The white man stole more and more. He stole the resources of Africa; he stole the people of Africa...And paid the Africans back IN BLOOD!

(From "Big Business & Cash Crops" - a leaflet produced by members of Perjury.)

think it would be a good thing if the human race were wiped out by AIDS. I'm sure Mother Earth would breathe a sigh of relief though.

C1: I think you're right when you say that the human race totally fucks up the balance of life on the planet, and I'd agree that a certain percentage of the population threaten the very existence of the earth, but I don't agree with the comment that it would be a good thing for the human race to be wiped out. The human race still has so much to offer the earth and has just as much right to live as plants and animals. We can all co-exist through co-operation, mutual aid, love and trust. I know that sounds very hippyish but it's what I believe in, and I also believe it can work.

On the subject of AIDS, it was an invention of an American germ warfare laboratory to wipe out lesbians and gays everywhere. But their monster has turned on them because it's started to kill off "straights" as well; now moralists everywhere are using it to make sex a crime. ((AT THIS POINT I THINK I OUGHT TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT I AM NOT A MISANTHROPIST! THE PREVIOUS QUESTION WAS PURELY HYPOTHETICAL - JUST TO SEE WHAT HILTBILL & CHRIS'S REACTION WAS LIKE.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE CHRIS GOT HIS INFORMATION ABOUT A.I.D.S. FROM, BUT READ →



You take the people as your prisoners,
They have no say in this violent matter
You say it's the multinationals but really it's you,
The passive consumer of blood stained foods

You wear your black stars and circled A's
As you support the circus parade.
The crops were bad this year, another million dead?
Am I expected to feel solitude amongst your
nodding fucking heads?

(CONSUMER RESPONSIBILITY)



THE N.A.V.S. ARTICLE ON PAGE 11 FOR A MORE REALISTIC VIEW. — MICK.))

M:-ARE YOU A PACIFIST? OR WOULD YOU CONDONE VIOLENCE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES (ie IN SELF DEFENCE, OR AGAINST ANIMAL ABUSERS etc.)?

H:-I used to think of myself as a pacifist and had this question been asked 2 years ago I would have said definitely yes. Now though, I think the area is much more grey than the black and white it used to be. I can't say how I would react in certain circumstances so it would be wrong of me to say "yes, I'm a pacifist". However, I would not condone or support any organised violence at all.

C:-I AM NOT A PACIFIST. I used to be, but when you see your friends being beaten up by police, or British soldiers killing people in Ireland or in the Falklands it's a bit difficult to maintain a pacifist view-point. We've got to use a certain amount of violence to achieve change, but at the moment I use it for self defence.

M:-ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD?

H:-Thanks for taking the time to write to us and write a fanzine that hopefully stirs a few thoughts in people.

PERJURY CAN BE CONTACTED AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: Perjury, c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

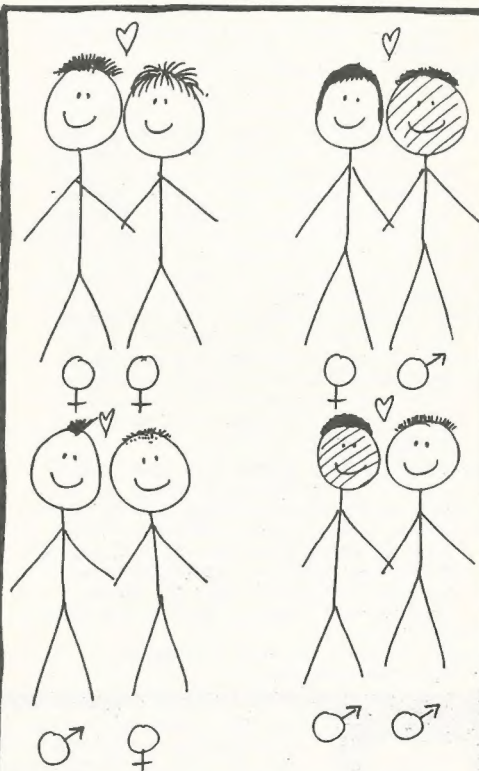
LETTERS (CONT'D FROM PAGE 7)

Polemic No.1 would be better than it turned out to be...maybe it was cos it was a long time coming, and I was just getting more eager to see it. I think it's a lot better than "Chemical Warfare" though personally, probably cos it puts more of yourself into it, rather than just filling it with bands. But I'm sure a lot more people would prefer to read CW than Polemic. To be honest I can't really understand why people get so excited about bands. When I used to get excited by bands in days of Conflict, Icons of Filth etc., they seemed to have something worthwhile to say...and they weren't always trying to sell you something.

The article on direct action against butchers etc. — I totally agree with you on that point. It's true to an extent that smashing a window doesn't change anything in the frame of mind of the average shopper, so we do have to look at different ways of getting people to think about what they eat. Smashing of windows is a show of anger and frustration, and to try and put the arsehole out of business. And that can be done with persistence. When people are fascistic about say veganism, it's the sort of people who ram their beliefs down some-

one else's throat, and it doesn't get them anywhere cos people will just switch off, cos they don't see why they should be told what to eat. At one time or another we've all been meat eaters...and what made us change our eating habits? No, I think you have to talk to people, just pointing out facts to them, without making yourself sound better than them cos you don't eat meat. And it's not something that people can be rushed into, I mean it took me a good while to turn vegan, from being a vegetarian.

As I said, I thought it was good what you wrote about butchers, but your views are totally contradicted when you go on about pornography. Pornography stops wimmin from being free. I won't go on about pornography cos you know the way I feel about it. But I find it extremely offensive that you support such shit as ((CONT'D ON BACK PAGE))



THE ONLY PERVERSION IS
THE INABILITY TO LOVE.

— MICK '88 —

AIDS

A DISEASE CAUSED BY ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

Sometime around June '87, I first read about the National Anti-Vivisection Society's report, "BIOHAZARD", which traces the origins of AIDS. Very interesting, and frightening, it is too. What follows is the text (retyped and reprinted) from the MAVS leaflet "AIDS - The Truth". Some of you may already have read it, but others won't have. Whatever the case, I'm sure you'll agree that this kind of information should reach as many people as possible.

AIDS is potentially the most serious public health problem to afflict humans for many generations. It appeared suddenly and spread across the whole world with frightening rapidity.

Scientists are groping in the dark as regards the origins of the disease and have proposed that it originated in Africa, in the form of a monkey virus which crossed the species barrier to humans. This is a tempting theory since it also diverts attention away from Europe and the USA where for the past 40 years vivisection and other biologists have been blindly playing around with viruses which they did not understand.

The African green monkey concept is, in part, correct; but the disease did not originate in Africa. It is now generally agreed by most virologists that the AIDS virus (HIV) is related to the monkey virus STLV-III, which was discovered as recently as 1983 and is now known to infect up to 80% of African green monkeys. People infected with the AIDS virus actually produce antibodies against certain proteins of STLV-III, since that virus forms part of human HIV. But it was the vivisection industry that added the final ingredient to create AIDS.

It has long been known that viruses can mutate when exposed to various chemicals, irradiation, hormones and so on. Even transmission from one species to another can cause a virus to mutate. Equally, a spontaneous or a deliberate mutation can cause a virus to cross the species barrier into a new host. Spontaneous mutation occurs naturally; it is this which gives rise to uncontrollable epidemics of 'flu which periodically sweep across the world. In this case, the mutation involves a complete swap of genes between two or more different types of normally mild 'flu viruses to produce a single very dangerous one.

Under laboratory conditions many other viruses have been studied and deliberately made to mutate and change host range. It is equally possible for such a mutation to occur accidentally in a laboratory and this is precisely how AIDS originated.

By the very nature of animal experimentation such a disaster was inevitable and unless action is taken now it is only a question of time before it happens again.

To date, HIV is the most complex virus of its type - a group known as retroviruses. Whereas most of these contain only four genes, HIV also has others which are only found in a small subgroup of retroviruses called lentiviruses. This subgroup includes the viruses which cause the brain disease scrapie (vimsa) in sheep and goats, and the slow viruses which cause the brain diseases Kuru and Cruetzfeld-Jacob disease (CJD) in humans. According to Nobel Prize winner D. Carlton Gajdusek, these viruses are so similar that they must be different strains of the same virus. The 1986 Annual Report of the British Medical Research Council also supports this statement.

The evidence points to HIV being formed by a mutation which involved STLV-III and a lentivirus. Although such a mutation could not happen under natural circumstances because of the completely different host ranges of the viruses involved, there has been ample opportunity under laboratory conditions. Much, but not all, of the research into the viruses of Kuru and CJD has been carried out in the laboratories of the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Maryland, USA, under the direction of D. Carlton Gajdusek. His work involved injecting these viruses, and others, into the brains and bloodstreams of many species of monkey, including the African green. By 1976, over 300 monkeys and apes of at least 19 species had been used, and the project was still continuing. The viruses were also grown in cultures of cells from African green monkeys, and during this experiment were deliberately mixed with many other forms of virus. It is hardly surprising that one or more mutations occurred and that STLV-III combined with a lentivirus. The workers involved were totally ignorant of the presence of STLV-III, although it is now known that it existed in United States laboratory monkeys as long as 20 years ago. Incredibly, vivisection continued again and again to inject animals with viruses about which they knew virtually nothing, and with no idea of the consequences. That they continued to do so was to beg for disaster.

Interestingly, even though there are no doubt many more unknown viruses in monkeys, vivisection is even now injecting HIV, the human AIDS virus, into these animals. The possibilities for further mutations are endless.

(continued overleaf...) →

All vivisection laboratories represent a biological time-bomb just waiting to go off, presenting a massive health threat not only to their immediate population but even worldwide.

Once the AIDS virus had been created, it would have been all too easy for it to escape into the local population via laboratory workers, and such incidents are well documented. For example, the top security USA Army Biological Warfare Establishment, Fort Detrick, is considered to be the most secure laboratory in the world. Over a 25 year period there has been, on average, an accident involving serious infection (including 3 deaths) every three or four weeks. Accidents are even more likely to occur under normal civilian conditions and must increase dramatically when staff are unaware of the hazards.

Similar work with viruses is carried out in Britain, and a large number of laboratories use non-human primates. It is quite possible that another virus similar to HIV will be produced, probably sooner than later. For example, since human AIDS was produced, other vivisectionists in the USA have already combined two harmless herpes viruses of mice to produce another herpes virus which kills mice.

The information given in this article is a very brief summary of the findings gleaned by NAVS from over a thousand research papers dating back from the 1930's. The full story is published in "BIOHAZARD" available from: The National Anti-Vivisection Society Ltd., 51 Harley Street, London W1N 1DD for £2.50 + 50p p&pf.

"All over the USA during the 1960s and 1970s, vivisectionists were deliberately transmitting simian AIDS from animal to animal, species to species, laboratory to laboratory, watching it develop in severity and speed of action. No attempt at all is made to contain the viruses, for at this stage the human consequences of such work were unknown."

From the NAVS Report "BIOHAZARD"

N.B. Polemic zine has no affiliation with the NAVS, and I (the editor) do not agree with many of the policies adopted by that organisation (i.e. strictly non-direct action).



The Freedom Animal Sanctuary Trust was set up in late 1986 by people involved in the animal welfare movement who were appalled by the small number of animal sanctuaries and shelters where animals can be taken without the threat of being put down. So the decision was made to set up a trust to raise £50,000 to buy land and buildings outright, not on a mortgage. The sanctuary will take in homeless domestic animals and injured wildlife. The wildlife will be treated and released into a safe area when well again. Domestic animals will be rehomed under an adoption scheme with ownership of the animals remaining with the sanctuary to make sure that each new home can be checked and the animal recovered if necessary. We are raising the needed funds purely by public donations and by fund raising events. Please send donations to:

12b Dudley Rd., Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1LF.
Tel: (0892) 43764

Annual membership: £5. Make cheques payable to Freedom Animal Sanctuary Trust.

LEE House

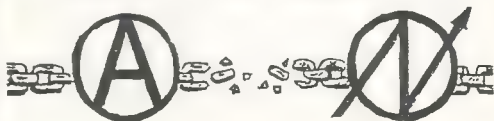
COMMUNITY CENTRE

NOW OPEN! An anarchist bookshop dealing in literature, mags, posters, records and T-Shirts. We specialise in punk/hardcore and alternative records. We hope the centre will also be used for workshops, meetings, a creche etc... Support welcome.

LEE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE KITCHEN.

The Lee House Kitchen is run by a collective of 10 people. All the food used will be vegan and will contain as few additives (inc. sugar) as possible. We also try to avoid using products that support the economies of oppressive governments and multinational corporations. So for example, we serve Traidcraft teas, Nicaraguan coffee, and no South African foods! We hope you will find the food tasty; it is certainly cheap as we run on a non-profit basis. To help maintain a friendly and clean atmosphere we ask that preferably no dogs or excessive alcohol be brought!

LEE HOUSE: 6A Rectory Rd., Stoke Newington, M16. (Kitchen open Thurs., Fri, Sat & Sun from 3pm to 8pm. Creche available.)



UNILEVER

PROFITS FROM MISERY

SOME FACTS ABOUT UNILEVER

- Unilever is the oldest yet the least well-known of all the multinational companies. Each working day, two-thirds of the world's population are confronted by its products, yet few know who really produces them. The combine manufactures more than 1,000 goods, but the name "Unilever" appears on none of them. It operates through hundreds of companies, many of which are household names, but the diversity is an illusion.

- Unilever is the world's largest food and soap company... It ruthlessly exploits animals and people in its unceasing search for profits.

- Unilever is Britain's third largest company; only the two oil giants, BP and Shell, are bigger.

- Unilever is still a major investor in South Africa, where its economic power contributes to the maintenance of the fascist-apartheid regime.

- Unilever is the largest British company involved in forestry. In Asia and the Pacific it has caused anger and resentment among the indigenous people for having logged out whole areas and islands, having failed to replant cleared areas, and having allegedly destroyed coconut plantations in the process. The consequences of deforestation are disastrous: it means the loss of arable land through soil erosion and desertification, extinction of wildlife due to habitat destruction, and the disruption of local populations who depend on the forest ecosystem for their survival.

- Unilever produces animal feed for factory farms and nitroglycerine for explosive weapons.

- Unilever is the biggest single producer of sausage meat in Britain.

- Unilever inflicts horrific torture on sentient animals to increase its profits. These tortures include: testing fabric conditioners and detergents for skin irritancy on rabbits, force-feeding "lypsyl" and hair dyes to rats to determine the dosage level at which half of them die (the LD50 test), and fitting windows into the stomachs of cows, and taps into the stomachs of pigs, to study the digestion of animal feeds.

IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE WORLD - THE PEOPLE, THE ANIMALS, & THE ENVIRONMENT - ACT NOW...

...BOYCOTT UNILEVER!!

UNILEVER PRODUCTS INCLUDE:

SOAPS: Lifebuoy, Knights Castille, Shield, Lux
SHAMPOOS: Sunsilk, Pears, All Clear, Timotei, Harmony
CONDITIONERS: Cream Silk, Sunsilk, Harmony
MOISTURISERS: Astral, Pears
OTHERS: Norsca (bubblebath, talcum powder)
DEODORANTS: Sure, Norsca, Impulse
TOOTHPASTE: Gibbs, SR, Signal
SHAVING FOAM: Denim, Erasmic, Easy Stick
DETERGENTS: Persil, Surf, Drive, Wisk, Stergene, Comfort
WASHING-UP: Sunlight, Squezy
DISINFECTANT: Domestos, Dot
MARGARINE etc.: Flora, Stork, Krona, Blue Band, Echo, Outline, Cookeen, Tomor, Flora Oil, Spray
MEAT: Mattesons and Walls spreads, sausages, etc.
VARIOUS: Quick Custard, Cup-a-Soup, Batchelors Baked Beans, Vesta dishes, Pack-a-Pie fillings, Frisk cat food, Walls ice-creams, BirdsEye, MenuMaster...

More information, and a list of alternatives to these products, can be obtained from :

Greenpeace (London),
5 Caledonian Road,
London N1.

(enclose SAE)



Advance Warning are a band based in the North-East of England. They play powerful punk music with thoughtful lyrics. They've released a split tape with Spirit Of Adventure (also from the North-East) called "Life From Inside A Goldfish Bowl" which includes a 12pg. booklet, and is a benefit for Duxham Womens Aid Group. Vinyl releases should follow soon.

The following postal interview was done in early Jan. '89.—Questions: Mick (M); Answers: Noby (N).

M: FIRSTLY, GIVE US A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE BAND—WHEN DID YOU FORM, & WHAT MADE YOU WANNA FORM A BAND IN THE FIRST PLACE?

N: Well, the band consists of Daz - guitar, John-drums, Adam-bass, and me (Noby)-vocals. The name ADVANCE WARNING was first used around summer '87, when there was myself and a few mates doing a few gigs for a music collective in Ashington. Then that all fell to bits; then we reformed in Dec. '87. The present line up has been around since April '88 I think. Originally me and Daz started a band for something to do way back in early '85, then we started becoming more aware of the things around us and we became more serious. We now try and get a message across, that's the main purpose of us having a band, and to help as many other people/benefits as we can.

M: HOW MANY GIGS HAVE YOU PLAYED UP TILL NOW? WHAT KIND OF REACTION HAVE YOU HAD FROM AUDIENCES?

N: At the time of writing we've done about 14 gigs. And every time we've played we've

had a decent response I'd say. About 5 or 6 of those weren't even punk gigs or whatever. The best response we've had is when we played the Gray Lodge at Dundee; it was brill - loads of folk jumping and moshing, and slamming about. But we've had a lot of good responses. So anyone reading this who's seen us and liked us, danced, clapped or cheered...CHEERS.

M: HOW/WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE NAME "ADVANCE WARNING"? ARE YOU GIVING US ADVANCE WARNING OF ALL THE EVIL THINGS GOING ON IN THE WORLD, OR ARE YOU REALLY JUST TELLING US WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW?

N: The name ADVANCE WARNING was thought of by a mate, when we were doing gigs with his band, back in summer '87 and we didn't have a name. So we used it, and it's stuck ever since, even though we hate it.

Well, yes and no to the second part of the question, as hopefully I think we are saying things people don't already know, coz like loads of metallers are coming to gigs now, so it might open their eyes and ears up. Obviously people who've listened to our type of music/lyrics before will have heard the things we're on about. But there's new faces popping up at gigs all the time, and you never know, they might listen to what we're saying. And not just that; loads of bands sing about unity and love, but we still don't seem to be unified do we. So we'll keep on rabbiting on about animal rights etc. until we're satisfied.

M: AT A LOT OF hardcore/THRASH GIGS THESE DAYS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DANCE NEAR THE →

**HOLD
HANDS NOT GRUDGES**

FRONT OF THE STAGE FOR FEAR OF HAVING YOUR NECK BROKEN BY FLYING STAGE-DIVERS, OR BEING PUNCHED BY VIOLENT SLAM-DANCERS. YOUR SONG "WHY SO MACHO?" SEEMS TO DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT... CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE THIS SONG? AND ALSO, WHEN PEOPLE DANCE IN A WAY WHICH VERGES ON VIOLENCE AT YOUR GIGS, DO YOU STOP PLAYING & ASK THEM TO STOP?

N: Well "Why So Macho?" wasn't really written about violent dancing, but people's violent attitudes. Like you may be sitting, then some real punk shocker-type will appear and strut around acting real hard, and sneer at people. I am just sick of all the rivalry between the different musical aspects of punk - you'll see one lot staring at the other and hear 'em slag each other off. And it just really boils my piss, coz it's really daft. But I suppose the song could be interpreted as being about violent dancing - I hope it is; someone might read it and hopefully think "well, I'll be more careful next time". About stopping playing: I've never noticed anyone get hurt whilst we're playing, or anyone dancing really violently. But there was a fight at one of our gigs once. But they weren't dancing so we stopped and I ranted on about them on the mike and it was stopped. But if we thought people were punching the shit out of each other to our music, we'd call it a day, as like Generic (one of my fave bands) we're not going to be a soundtrack for people's misguided violence.

M: IN THE BOOKLET THAT COMES WITH YOUR SPLIT DEMO WITH SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE THERE'S A CARTOON WHICH SAYS "STAMP ON THE N.F.". THIS CARTOON ALSO APPEARS IN YOUR ZINE "WE WANT TO BE HEARD TOO". DO YOU THINK VIOLENCE AGAINST N.F. SUPPORTERS SOLVES ANYTHING? SURELY IT'S JUST SINKING TO THEIR INTIMIDATORY TACTICS...?

N: Well, the cartoon shows a punk standing on a nazi. I didn't draw it, but I suppose I do have to agree with it to a certain degree, so I'll explain. But first a question for yourself and the readers: Say you were walking down the street and saw a person of a different coloured skin being beaten up, for no other reason than having a dif-

ferent skin pigmentation - what would you do, just ignore it?

Myself personally I'd go over and try and stop it peacefully, as I believe this can work sometimes! But however it does not all the time. So then you've found yourself in a position where you've either got to defend yourself or use force in order to defend the victim. You can try talking to them, sometimes it does work, as near the pub where I drink there's an Indian takeaway, and it used to get a few racial attacks. I know the people who were doing it so I went up to them all one day, and told them how fucking stupid I thought they were. And since then they seem to have packed it in. But on the other hand there are a lot of those types who simply won't listen, so I think on certain occasions you do have to use violence no matter how much you detest it. I wouldn't say it's sinking to their intimidatory tactics as I know a lot of people with NF tendencies, but I don't go around kicking the shit out of them, even though I really loathe their politics. ((I AGREE THAT WE SHOULD DEFEND INDIVIDUALS AGAINST VIOLENT NAZIS - USING FORCE IF NECESSARY - BUT THE CARTOON I REFERRED TO IN THE QUESTION DOESN'T SIMPLY IMPLY "SELF DEFENCE" - IT IS BASICALLY URGING PEOPLE TO PHYSICALLY ATTACK NATIONAL FRONT SUPPORTERS, WHICH IN MY VIEW IS A MISUSE OF VIOLENCE. BY THE WAY, I THINK IT'S IRONIC THAT THE ARMS OF THE SWASTIKAS ON THE NAZI IN THE CARTOON ARE POINTING THE WRONG WAY—DOES THIS INFER THE IGNORANCE OF THE NAZI, OR IS IT THE ARTIST WHO'S A BIT THICK..? —MICK.))

M: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ADVANCE WARNING? - WHEN WILL THE NEW DEMO-TAPE BE OUT? ANY CHANCE OF A VINYL RELEASE?

N: What does the future hold? Well, I wish I knew, and I'd make millions, and no benefit would ever be hard up for cash, nor me HaHa. But seriously we plan to gig as much as possible, meet even more canny people, become better musicians, get people, instead of just reading lyrics, to actually act upon them, and enjoy ourselves. We'd really love to gig anywhere and everywhere so promoters please get in (Pro)



touch. We haven't any plans for a new demo yet, as we're working on stuff for an LP on a new label, being set up by a mate, called KNX Records. We've a split EP which should be out by the time this is being read with those good old Debauchery chappies, which is on Real World Records. Also we've a track on the "Spluerk" compilation LP on Meantime Records. So buy those please if you wish, but watch out for the LP as we've got our act together now, and by the sound of the new stuff it's gonna be a million times better than the demo, and that's no exaggeration.

M: ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD (OR PLUG)?

N: Well, what I'd like to add is 50,000 + 76,593 - 254 + 974,665 but it would be too hard so I'll just say anyone, everyone, please get in touch with us, all letters are replied. Thanx to Mick for this space in his lovely piece of literature, and also hello and thanx to all our friends and people we write to, unfortunately too numerous to mention, all 2 of them, no sorry that was a lie. Seriously, hello everyone - you know who you are.

Our split demo with SOA costs £1.20+SAE. And we even have T-Shirts available from Jen, 2 Baggrave View, Barsby, Leicestershire, LE2 8RB. And my zine "We Want To Be Heard Too (2B)" will be out around April. Bye, take care everyone - it just takes a little thought to achieve a great deal!

ADVANCE WARNING CAN BE CONTACTED AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: Equality House, 74 Highburn, Stonelaw Grange, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6BQ.

POLEMIC GRAPHICS (July 1988)



For the last 20 years Capital Punishment (for anything other than treason, piracy with violence, and setting fire to H.M. ships) has not existed in Britain; but about 90% of the population want to see it restored. I find this a frightening and deplorable statistic. Here are some of the main arguments for/against Capital Punishment. There'll be more on this subject in future issues.

STATE MURDER

THE ARGUMENTS
FOR AND AGAINST
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT:

FOR

AGAINST

"It's a deterrent."

"If someone commits a crime, they must receive a punishment equal to that crime. Therefore if someone commits murder, they must be killed."

"What about 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth...?'"

"Between 1970 and 1987 there were 30 murders carried out by released prisoners. - If you hang him, he can't do it again!"

"Why should tax payers' money be wasted on keeping murderers alive?"

"Capital Punishment is the only true justice for a murderer!"

Capital Punishment has never been proven to work as a deterrent. Studies in America show that there is no significant difference between the number of murders committed in states with the death penalty and the states without it.

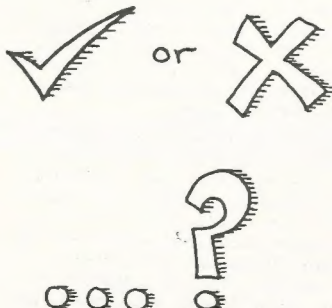
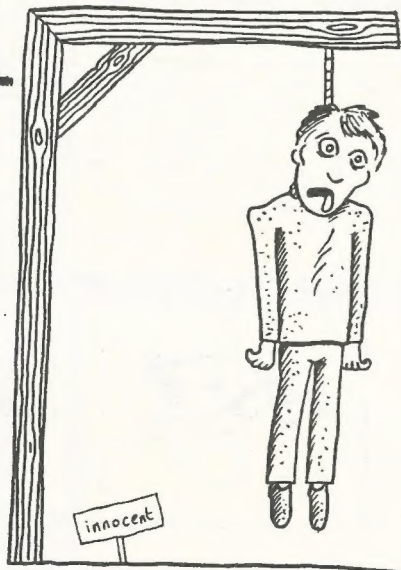
The death penalty is the only form of punishment which repeats the crime it is punishing. In the words of Phil Brasfield (a man wrongly convicted of murder in America): "Why do we kill people who kill people to show that killing people is wrong?"

What about "Thou Shalt Not Kill"??

Society should aim to reform criminals, not murder them. You can't reform a dead man!

Money shouldn't come into it - you can't put a price on someone's life.

Figures show that approximately one quarter of convicted murderers in recent years were innocent or doubted. If the death penalty existed, many people would be killed for crimes they didn't commit. Is that "justice"?



WHAT IS "NATURAL"?

In the past, many species of animal and plant have become extinct - thousands; too many to count. Ever since life on this planet began, things have been dying out - it's inevitable. Extinction is part of the evolutionary process. So why, then, do we care about animals/plants becoming extinct ... why do we even care about death? After all, it's only natural, isn't it? Multi-nationals cutting down rain forests cause numerous different species to become extinct - it's been estimated that on average one species of plant or animal becomes extinct every single day. But why is that any different from, say, Brontosaurus becoming extinct all those millions of years ago?

Humans are animals just like every other creature. Everything we do, as a species, is "natural" because what are we if we're not just another part of nature? Building nuclear powerstations. Dropping bombs. Killing millions of people in pointless wars... It's all "natural"! So why should I care if a species of tropical bird becomes extinct in South America? Why should I care if hundreds of rabbits are blinded in British laboratories (in the name of "research")?... I don't know. But I DO CARE!! Surely, if everything we do is "natural", then my will to save the world from imminent destruction is also "natural"! If I want to try and help save a species of animal from becoming extinct, that is a natural desire. I'm not going to sit back and say "Well, the evolutionary process has made humans turn out this way - it must be natural for us to destroy our planet..." -- I'm gonna try and fucking stop it!

I've heard some people ("radical carnivores") say that those who care deeply about ecological issues must "hate people" because we want to help animals... They say we must like AIDS because it kills people! Fuck, I don't hate people! I am a fucking person - a human - a man - I don't hate myself!! In my eyes, all animals and plants have an equal right to live.

Yeah, sure, it's completely natural for humans to systematically destroy the world through war, deforestation, pollution; but it's also completely natural for humans to want to save the world from ourselves. Humans are complex creatures - with one of the most complex minds on this planet - what is, and is not, "natural behaviour" for people is impossible to categorise. So let's just get on with our lives, doing what is right for us.

- Mick '88

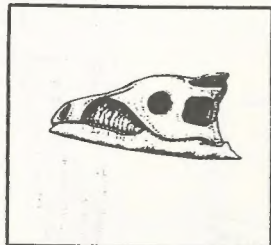
HUMANS & ANIMALS.

Humans and animals - what's the difference? There is no difference. Humans are animals. We continually try to separate ourselves from other animals - we often fall into the trap of thinking that we're "superior" because our brains are more highly developed than other species. But are we more intelligent than other animals? What about whales? Many whales have larger brains than humans; they have their own complex languages... and on top of that, they don't destroy the environment like we do! So who's more intelligent? My money's on the whales! But - ha! - so what!

A lot of religious fuck-heads come out with shit like "We must be superior to animals because God made us in his own image to rule over the planet..." But if we're so superior, how come we let the "leaders" of our society fuck up the world? I don't class self-annihilation as a particularly "superior" thing to do. We're heading towards extinction... We can either suffocate from lack of oxygen (due to deforestation); or drown from flooding (due to the "Greenhouse effect"); or maybe we'll die in a nuclear powerstation disaster... who knows! But when we're all gone - who's gonna be "superior" then? You can bet that the rats will still be here... and the ants...

It's just another link in the evolutionary cycle - we're destined to become extinct. But, fuck, that doesn't mean we should just let it happen and do fuck all about it. Remember; when we destroy the planet, we inevitably destroy ourselves. We don't control the planet - the planet controls us. So every piece of non-decomposable litter that we drop on the ground; every time we spit toothpaste down the sink; every time we breathe... we're adding to the destruction of our planet as we know it. And when I say "the destruction of our planet" what I really mean is the destruction of the human race! (But it's all perfectly natural!)

- Mick '88





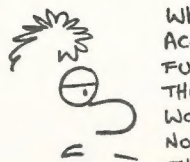
WHY ARE YOU
AFRAID TO HAVE
SEX WITH YOUR
OWN GENDER?

BECAUSE GOD
SAYS IT'S
WRONG.



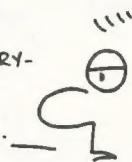
WHY DON'T YOU
FIGHT BACK
AGAINST THE
SYSTEM?

BECAUSE GOD
SAYS WE
SHOULD
RESPECT
AUTHORITY.

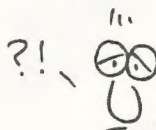


WHY DO YOU
ACCEPT ALL THE
FUCKED-UP
THINGS IN THE
WORLD AND DO
NOTHING ABOUT
THEM?

BECAUSE EVERY-
THING THAT
HAPPENS IS
GOD'S WILL.



PHEW, THANK
GOD I'M
AN ATHEIST!



- MICK '88 -

DON'T LET AUTHORITY GRIND YOU DOWN...



...TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR SEXUALITY NOW!

LETTERS (CONT'D FROM PAGE 10)...

porn., it has got a lot to answer for in the way wimmin are seen within society and the role they play. And it does lead to sexual harrassment and rape!!

Oh yeah, your poem on abortion was really good, glad to see you tried to write about an untouched subject.

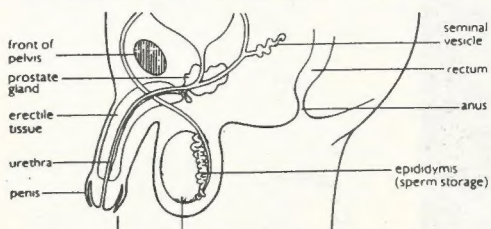
Anyway Mick, I'll be off now...Love,
Scott (Anorexia), South Yardley, B'ham.

Scott:-

I'll just say that I don't think there's any contradiction between believing in the right of an animal to live its life free from exploitation, torture and premature death, and the right of perfectly sane hum-

an beings to give people pleasure by appearing in erotic pictures.

- Mick.



P O L E M I C G R A P H I C S (April 1988)



HAVE A
NICE DAY!

